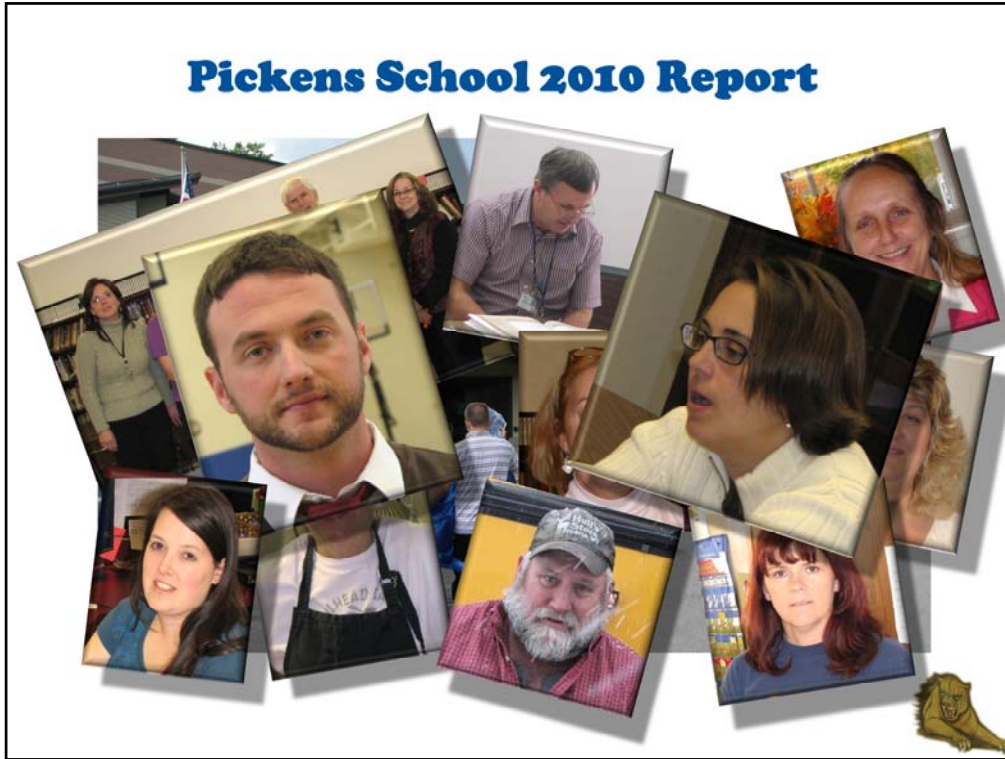


Pickens School 2010 Report



Pickens School students, faculty, parents, and the supporting community have worked diligently and productively in the past year. The members of the LSIC appreciate this opportunity to update you on improvements, achievements, and activities as well as our goals and plans for the future.

Pickens School provided education to 45 students in kindergarten through 12th grade this year. The school is staffed by 12 teachers (only 3 of whom are full time), 1 secretary, 1 cook, 1 custodian/water operator, and one bus driver. Two new faculty joined Pickens School this year. Missy Stemple teaches Speech and Jarin Anderson teaches Social Studies and Music.



The GEAR UP program which is sponsored by Fairmont State University provided a number of opportunities to students at Pickens School.

Students visited Salem University, Alderson-Broaddus College, Davis and Elkins College and Fairmont State. In addition, they will visit Wesleyan College, Potomac State College, and Glenville State College.

Students went to a Computer Scholarship banquet at Fairmont State and traveled to Washington, DC.

Rocky VanNoy provided a financial aid workshop to assist parents and students in filling out Federal financial aid applications and there was a GEAR UP parent workshop on financial aid. These were two of the monthly GEAR UP parent activities.

One student went to the Outdoor Adventure GEAR UP Summer Camp.

GEAR UP sponsored the Back to School Bash and the End of School Year Formal, both popular activities with students.



Students at Pickens School made substantial achievements as individuals and as a group. Students made Annual Yearly Progress and had a 100% graduation rate with 80% of the graduates going to college or technical school.

A senior won the GEAR UP sponsored Martin Luther King Essay Contest and 3 of 6 county winners of the Young Writers were from Pickens School.

Students participated in the Hooked on Fishing not Drugs poster contest, winning three first place awards for the county.

A Pickens student participated on the county team for Math Field Day and students participated in the regional MathCounts.

As 4H representatives, students went to Citizenship Washington Focus and won state poster and photo contests at the WV State Fair.

A senior won the EQT Students of Excellence Scholarship Program, an award presented by the State Journal to one student from each county.

A student participated in Rotary Youth Leadership Academy.

And, Pickens received Exemplary School status. This is the seventh time the school has earned this recognition in the ten times it has been awarded.



Activities and Special Events included a wide range of travel and visitors. Students in grades 9-12 participated in College Career Day at Davis and Elkins College. Kids' Day at the Park, part of Forest Festival, is always popular with the students. Queen Sylvia and members of her court presented students with a Forest Festival program. Judge Jaymie Godwin Wilfong visited Pickens School and talked with students about the importance of being drug-free and good citizenship as part of Red Ribbon Week. Jimmy O'Dell, one of the rocket boys, provided a motivational presentation. Pickens School teachers provided after-school tutoring for students in elementary and middle school from March through the end of last school year and are continuing the activity this year. Students provide community service at events such as the Maple Syrup Festival, Helvetia and Pickens Ramp Suppers, and Senior/Alumni banquet. Steve Grant who played football for WVU and Indianapolis Colts gave a motivational presentation. Kevin Wilson, Vice President of Davis and Elkins College, visited to give an overview of the college and financial aid opportunities. K-5 students held a math-a-thon during which they raised \$500 for St. Jude's Hospital for Children. Students attended the WVU Blue and Gold game. Students in grades K-5 visited the West Virginia Wildlife Center. Students in grades 6-12 attended Rachel's Challenge (anti-bullying) session sponsored by GEAR-UP and Family Resources Network at Tygarts Valley High School. Students visited the Pickens Fire Department for Fire Safety and Prevention Month. Two students are firefighters. And, through the 4H Club, students participated in the Adopt-a-Highway program.



Students participated in many Class Activities. Some examples include:

Students created a float supporting the school levy for the Helvetia Fair Parade.

The Business Law class performed a Constitution Day Skit for students in grades Kindergarten through 10th.

Students carved pumpkins as a fall activity and they traveled to Clarksburg to participate in the Rocket Launch regional competition.

Students presented two Christmas programs—one for elementary and one for high school. The HS program was written and produced by the junior and senior English classes.

This year's senior trip was to Kennywood park.

Students participated in monthly Box Tops for Education contests. In November, Ms. Betler wore the Turkey hat to celebrate students in grades 3-5 bringing in the most box tops.

Fifth Graders participated in the county Outdoor Education Program at Camp Pioneer.

Eighth graders did a peer tutoring project to assist fifth graders with algebra vocabulary.

Juniors and seniors sewed baby blankets and made healthy snacks for whole school as part of the family and consumer science class.

Students installed a weather station on a supporting structure they designed and built. The station automatically reports the weather every 10 minutes and students manually report it on a daily basis.



Arts activities include:

Arts bank instructor Kevin Woodcock taught printmaking and other visual arts with K-5.

Tim Farrell, a composer and recording artist from Pennsylvania, provided grades K-8 with an integrated arts program on music.

Mick Souter provided a session on Woody Guthrie using a variety of instruments.

Students in the music class attended the Young People's Concert by the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

Students were treated to a Latin American music and culture presentation.

GEAR UP students attended a performance of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* at Fairmont State College.

Berea College Dancers performed and provided workshops for students.

Students, parents, and teachers attended a classical piano concert featuring Jack Gibbons at Davis and Elkins College.

The Music class performed the musical, *Bebop 50s Shop*, based on 1950s music.

Students attended a performance of *The Fantasticks* at Davis and Elkins College.

Basketball



The Coed Basketball season started in November. Students in grades 9-12 played in the Coalton Youth Basketball League. The students vs. alumni game was held in March.

Graduation



Graduation for both Kindergarten and High School students was in June. Michael Belmear, Fairmont State University Vice President, delivered the commencement address to the five high school graduates. There were six kindergarten graduates.

Improvements



Work continues on the multi-use recreation field and walking track. Students are looking forward to playing softball, soccer, archery, flag football, and other sports. A \$500 grant has been received from Wal-mart for use on the recreation field.

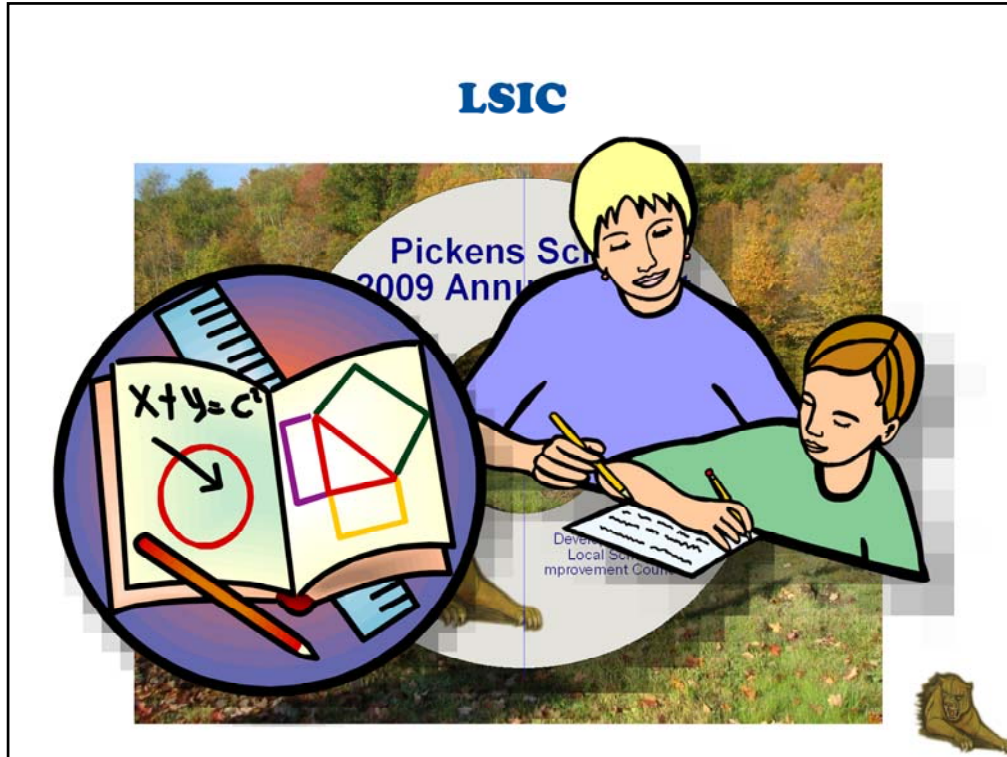


The Pickens School PTSO supports students and their education through many activities. Fund raising activities included: the food and tee shirts tables at basketball games, selling baked goods at the Helvetia Fair, the holiday fruit sale, poinsettia sale, and collecting box tops.

PTSO hosted a gingerbread shop and assisted with field trips to Prickets Fort, Valley Words of Fun, and WV Wildlife Center.

The group purchased drainage materials for the recreation field.

PTSO goals for this year include raising funds for field trips and completing the recreation field and walking track.



The Pickens School LSIC has supported the development of the new multiuse recreation field. The group distributed video annual reports to students, parents, and community members as outreach and information activities. Our goals for this year include improving math and other academic performance through tutoring and a resource bank as well as finishing the recreation field and walking track.



Volunteers accompany students on field trips, assist in classrooms, work on projects such as the recreation field and walking track, and even mow the lawn. Tutors and members of the resource bank that is in development are volunteers. Educational partners include the Hütte Restaurant, Appalachian Fly Fishing and Guide Service, Sam's Pizza, and Hull's Store.



Pickens School has a full complement of technology including a mobile laptop lab, iPads, desktop computers, and a Polycom system. These permit dual credit classes and advanced learning opportunities. However, staff or teacher time is not available to learn to use these technologies to their full potential and there are no technical support staff at Pickens School. A Technical Integration Specialist is needed to bridge the gap between the technologies and the users.

Fill dirt, design, and landscaping are needed to complete the multi-use recreation field and walking track. When the field is completed, ongoing maintenance will be required.



The members of the Pickens School LSIC are eager to work with you to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for our children. We are Brenda Albright, Teacher of Special Education and Homebound Tutor; Diane Betler, Principal and half-time classroom teacher for grades 3-5; Betty Biggs, Service Personnel (Cook); Emily Biggs, Student in the Senior class; Velda Booth, Parent; Chuck Chandler, Parent; John Coleman, Service Personnel (Bus Driver); Donna Knotts, Teacher of Reading, Language Arts, and English as well as Guidance Counselor and Gear Up Site Coordinator; Sam Knotts, Community Member and owner of Appalachian Fly Fishing Guide Service, representing business; Loni Sanders, Parent and president of the PTSO; Wanda Scott, Teacher for grades K-2; Christine Sneberger, Elementary Title I teacher; Tonia Tiffner, Parent; Charles “Smoke” Toms, Community Member; and Dave Whipp, Community Member representing technology. We thank you very much.